(ख) यदि हां, तो 1991 के कलेन्डर वर्ष के दौरान देश में मुद्रास्फीति की औसत दर कितनी थी; और

(ग) उसके क्या कारण हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) देश में कलेन्डर वर्ष, 1991 के दौरान थोक मूल्य सूचकांक के अनुसार मुद्रास्फीति की औसत दर 1990 के दौरान 9.1 प्रतिशत के मुकाबले 13.6 प्रतिशत थी।

(ग) मुख्य रूप से मुद्रास्फीति की उच्च दर जिसके फलस्वरूप मुद्रापूर्ति में अत्यधिक वृद्धि और नकदी बाहुल्य हुआ पिछले वर्षों से चल रहे बड़े राजकोषीय घाटे से उत्पन्न मांग के आधिक्य के कारण बनी। विदेशी मुद्रा की अत्यधिक कमी के कारण अपेक्षित मात्रा में आयात करने में बाधाओं और घरेलू उत्पादन में गिरावट आने के कारण अनाजों, दालों और खाद्य तेलों जैसी संवेदी वस्तुओं की पूर्ति और मांग के बीच भी असंतुलन रहे हैं। कोयला, पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों (डीजल और मिट्टी के तेल के अतिरिक्त), उर्वरकों और बिजली जैसी प्रशासित मदों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि के कारण हो सकता है कि मूल्यों पर कुछ दबाव बढ़े हों।

Smuggling on Indo-Pakistan Border

116. SHRI ARANGIL SREE-DHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is" a fact that large scale smuggling is taking place on Indo-Pakistan border; and'

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAHESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Available reports indicate that the Indo-Pakistan sector of the land borders continues to be sensitive to smuggling. But, since this is a clandestine activity it is not possible to estimate the extent.

In order to combat such smuggling the anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the Customs presence has been reinforced recently by the creation of two Sub-Collectorates exclusively for anti-smuggling work with headquarters at Amritsar and Jodhpur for the Punjab and Rajasthan sectors respectively. More than 60% of the border in the Punjab sector has been fenced with the barbed wire and charged with high voltage electric current in order to restrict any border crossing. During the night and odd hours curfew is being imposed in the border areas of Punjab with Pakistan whenever felt necessary.

Close co-ordination is also being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling such as Border Security Force, Customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. The anti-smuggling efforts have yielded substantial seizures of contraband during the last few years and are given in th table below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Value of goods seized
1988	26.39
1989	29.97
1990	24.70
1991	31.49

Rupee Convertibility Programme

117. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI is going ahead with the programme of Rupee convertibility; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Government has indicated its medium-term objective of making the Rupee convertible on the trade account through the trade policy statement of July 4, 1991. However, it is too early to indicate the details of the proposal at this stage.